

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides an *in vitro* method for quantifying exposure to psychological stress which relies on measuring the retained ability of neutrophils, preferably neutrophils in a whole blood sample, to exhibit challenge-induced superoxide anion production. Using such methodology, coping capacity of individuals for particular psychological stressors may be assessed.